(2)

New-years-Gift
Composed of
PRAYERS

AND
MEDITATIONS.

WITH

Devotions

FOR

Several Occasions.

The Sirth Part.

LONDON:

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A

New-years-gift. The Sixth Part.

MEDITATION I.

For the Assistance of God's Holy Spirit

Rom. 8. 13. For if ye live after the Flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the Deeds of the Body, ye shall live.

I

Come let us humbly first implore his Grace, to make us wor-

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thy to adore our Sanctifier; who from the Father and the Son eternal. ly proceeds, and with the Father and the Son is equally Glorified, he infuses into us the Breath of Life, and brings us forth in our second Birth: a Birth that makes us Heirs of Heaven, and gives us a Title to everlasting Happiness.

II.

Let us prepare our Understandings, to assent to his Truths, and our Wills to follow his Divine Inspirations; let us fill our Memories with his innumerable Mercies, and

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and our whole Souls with the Glory of his Attributes, let us confidently address to him our Petitions, who promifes to help the Infirmity of our Prayers; let us not doubt the Bounty of his Goodness, but hope he will grant what himself inspires to ask.

III.

Lord, with how fweet and natural a Conduct does thy Providence Govern the Children of Men? Leading them on from one Degree to another, till thou hast brought them up to their highest Perfection: thou put'ft

read some few plain

Lessons of their Duty to

thee: they faw this ad-

mirable Frame of Crea-

tures; and as far as thefe could argue, they could

conclude.

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I V.

Sure there's a God, the cause of all things; sure there's God's Hely Spirit.

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in there's a Providence, the e; Disposer of all things. He must be powerful that 1as. made so vast a World: n He must be wise that contrived fuch excellent Works: He must be Goodness it self, that did all this for us; and we ingrateful Wretches if we'll do nothing for him. Thus far some few could fay, and very few could do with those slender Asfiftances they then injoyed: after thou gav'ft thy People a written Rule; which trained them up in aset Form of Discipline, which grew and spread into a publick Religion; and uniformly profest by A 4

For the Affiftance of a whole Nation.

Favo They had some weak Conceit of the Kingdom of Heaven, and someimperfect Means to bring them thither: But for those high supernatural Mysteries, that so glorioully Exalt the Christian Faith: they all alas, were Blind or in the Dark; and dangerously exposed to the Effects of their Ignorance. Wanting those clear Instructions, to know their End: wanting those powerful Motives to love their God. Yet this prepared them for the times of Grace; to

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God's Holy Spirit. 7 to which thy Mercy, O Lord, referv'd far greater Favours.

VI.

To which thou had'st promised by thy Holy Prophets an effusion of Bleffings from thine full I will put my Mands. Law in their Bowels, and write it intheir Hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my People. I will pour out my Spirit upon all Flesh, and your Sons and your Daughters shall Pro-They shall teach phecy. no more every one his Neighbour; for all shall know me, from the greatest to the least. O merciful AS

8 For the Assistance of ciful Lord, who hast lov'd us from the beginning, be graciously pleased to love us to the end.

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VII.

Pitty the unhappy State of fallen Mankind, which neither Nature nor Law could bring to Perfection. If any riper Souls came forward to the Birth; there wanted Spirit to bring them forth: But O, send out thy Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created; and from their nothing of Sin raised to the Life of Holiness, send out thy Spirit and renew the Face of the Earth, and our Weeds, and

God's Holy Spirit. 9 and our Thorns shall be turned into a Paradice.

VIII.

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Consider now, my Soul the Mercies of thy God; consider the Wonders he has wrought for the Children of Men. The Eternal Father created us of nothing; and fet us in the way to everlasting Happiness. The Eternal Son came down from Heaven to feek us; and restor'd us again, when we had lost our selves, the Eternal Spirit sends his Grace to Sanctify us; and gives us strength to walk that holy way. Thus every Person of the Sacred

10 For the Affiftance of

Sacred Trinity, has freely contributed his peculiar Bleffing: and altogether, as one coinfinite Goodness, have graciously agreed to compleat our Felicity.

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IX.

But O ingrateful We, was it not enough to receive of our God all we have and are? was it not enough that the Son of God fhould come down; and live to teach us, and dye to redeem us? Was not all this enough to make us Love? and Love is all he aimed at, and Love was all we needed. Let us Confess to thee O merciful

merciful Lord; let us confess to thee our Miferable Condition, fuch was, alas, the Corruption of our Nature; and fo many and strong the Temptations round about us: that without this thy last miraculous Favour, of fending the Holy Ghost to guide and quicken us; we should have still remained in our old dull Place; flow to Understand, and slower to Obey.

X.

We should have quite forgotten our God that made us; and neglected the Service of our Lord that

12 For the Assistance of

that bought us: Had not thy Fulness been readily furnisht with one Blessing more to bestow on thy Children. Hadst not thou providently referved a better Blessing, then the Dew of the Clouds and Fatness of the Earth: better then plenty of Corn and Wine, or the multitude of Posterity, or Dominion o're our Brethren.

XI.

These were the great Rewards of the old Law: but behold far greater than these are here. Divine Refreshments from the Heav'n of Heav'ns,

and

and the rare delicious Fruits, of the Holy Ghost, Meekness, and Peace, and Joy Diffused in our Breafts; Strength, and undaunted Courage kindled in our Hearts, a thoufand fweet Imbraces of the Spoule of Souls; a thousand dear Pledges of his everlasting Love, these are the great Rewards of the Law of Grace; and given to prepare us for the Kingdom of Glory.

XII.

O Bleffed Spirit, who bestow'st thy Favours as thou pleasest; and the more thou hast given, fill

14 For the Affistance of still the more thou giv's!! Fit and dispose thy Servants first to entertain thee; then graciously Vouchsafe to descend into our Hearts, fill us, O Holy Ghoft, and our little Vessels; and as thou fill'st us, inlarge our Capacities, make us the more we receive of thee, still grow in Defire of Receiving more, till we ascend to those satisfying Joyes above; where all our Faculties shall be stretcht to the utmost; where they shall all be filled to the Brim; and overflow'd with a Torrent of Pleasure for ever.

The

God's Holy Spirit. 15

The PRAYER.

Ome Holy Spirit, the free Dispenser of all Graces! Visit the Hearts of thy Servants, and Replenish them with thy Sacred Inspirations: Illuminate our Understandings, and Inflame our Affections, and Sanctify all the Faculties of our Souls; that we may know, and love, and constantly do the Things that belong to our Peace, our everlasting Peace.

II.

To Love one another is a happy Life, a Heaven upon

16 For the Affiftance of upon Earth, and the blift effect of the fire of the true Spirit, which warms without scorching, and shines without smoaking, and enlightens without consuming. Kindle in our hearts O Lord, the Holy fire of Meekness, Peace and Unity; that all the World may know, whose Disciples we are, by seeing us love one another. But O deliver us from the Contrary fire. The fire of the false Spirit; that scorches without Warming, and smoakes without Shining, and Consumes without Inlightning: Deliver us from Faction, Schism, and Heresy, and every least uncharitable Paffi-

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God's Holy Spirit. 17
Passion. This we beg
through Jesus Christ our
Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MEDI

MEDITATION II.

On St. Math. 3. 2.

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

Y God, when I remember those Words of thine, Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. When I consider they were the first thou spak'st in publick; the chosen Text of the Eternal Wisdom: Instantly I am struck with the Importance of the Duty; and deeply affected

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On St. Math. 3.2. 19

ed with the Power of the Motive. If what this last Line says be not wholly true; but repeated in Course, as a Form of Devotion. Forgive, dear Lord, the Deceitfulness of my Heart, and make me think as well as say my Prayers. Make me apply those searching Words to myself; and bind them sast on my immortal Soul.

II.

Repent, O my Soul! for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven depends on thy Repentance. Unhappy me!

I cannot live without Sin; nor hope for Pardon without due Repentance. I cannot Repent without the Grace of God, nor obtain his Grace, without his own free Gift. O my fweet Saviour, who cam'st not to call the Righteous; but fuch as I am, Sinners to Repentance! Since I am not strong enough to be perfectly Innocent; at least make me humble enough to be truly Penitent: Make me heartily forry for what I have done amis; and not do again what will make me forry.

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III.

Let not our Lord be angry, and we will speak yet once more; for we have much to ask, and he has infinite to give. We have much to ask for our Selves and all the World; who depend intirely on his free Goodness. Many O Lord, are the Graces we want; and none can give them but thy Bounty. Many are the Sins and Miseries we are exposed to; and none can deliver us but thy Providence. Wo to the Day and Hour wherein I Sinn'd; wo to the many Days and Hours I have foolishly Mispent.

Or rather Wo to me, who abuse my Days and Hours, allowed by thy Goodness to work out my Salvation,

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Deliver us, O Lord, from the Punishments we deserve; and deliver us from the Sins that deferve those Punishments. Deliver us, O Lord, from what thou know'st is against us; deliver us from what we know our selves will undo us. Deliver us from the Spirit of Prophaneness and Infidelity; from the Spirit of Error, Schism, and Herefy: Deliver us from the Spirit of Pride and Avarice; On St. Math 3.2. 23
hee; from the Spirit of Anger, Sloath, and Enny. Deliver us from the Spirit of Drunkenness and Gluttony; From the Spint of Lust, Wantonness, and Impurity: Deliver 18,0 gracious God, from overy evil Spirit, and souchsafe to give us thine

own good Spirit.

Vouchfafe to give us the Spirit of Fortitude; the Spirit of Temperance, Justice, and Prudence; the Spirit of Wishlem, Understanding, and Counsel; the Spirit of Knowledg, Piety and lear of thee. The Spirit of Peace, Patience B

and Benignity; the Spi- jet

rit of Hamility, Sobrie- to ty and Chastity. O thou, Go who never denyest thy pai Favours, unless we first to deny our Obedience! fer thou who art often near fol us, when we are far from on thee; often ready to Vi grant, when we are un de mindful to ask! Refuse tre not, O Lord, to hear us, gr now we call on thee; and for

when thou call'ft to us. If

make us still hear the ft

Fill our Understand ra ings with the knowledg h of fuch Truths, as may D fix them on thee the E C ternal Verity, inure our ca Wills to imbrace such Ob b

jects;

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icts; as may unite them to thee the Soveraign Goodness. Shew us the parrow Way that leads to Life; the Way which few can find, and fewer follow. Guide us still on in the middle Path of Virtue; that we never decline to any vicious Extream. Let not our Faith grow wild with superfuous Branches; nor be fiript into a naked and fruitless Trunck: Let not our Hope fwell up to a rash Presumption; nor hrink away into a faint Despair. Let not our Charity be cool'd into a careless Indifferency; nor heated into a furious Zeal.

B 2 VI

VII.

But above all, fuffer us not, O Lord, to be Guilty of those unpardonable Sins, against thy Holy and Bleffed Spirit: Suffer us not obstinately to perfift in any known Wickedness; nor maliciously impugn any known Truth. Suffer us not to dye in our Sins without Repentance; but O, have Mercy on us in that ferious Hour. Have Mercy on us, and govern us in onr Life; have Mercy on us, and fave us at our Death.

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The PRAYER.

Ome Holy Spirit, Eter-nal God, the free Dispenser of all Graces! Visit the Hearts of thy Servants, and Replenish them with thy Sacred Inspirations: Illuminate our Underfandings, and Inflame our Affections, and Sanctify all the Faculties of our Souls; that we may Know, Love, and constantly do the things, that belong to our everlasting Peace; and endeavour to work out our own Salvation with Fear and Trembling, breaking off our Sins by Repentance, that Iniquity may not be our Ruine. B but but may safely arrive at

last, and live for ever in thy Heavenly Kingdom for ever more, Amen.

MEDI-

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MEDITATION III.

On St. Matthew 11. 28, 29, 30.

come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy Laden, and I will give you Rest.

Take my Yoke upon you, and Learn of me, for I am Meek, and Lowly in Heart: and ye shall find Rest unto your Souls.

For my Yoke is easy, and my Burthen is light.

R Etire now, my Soul, from thy common Thoughts; permitted to B 4 Enter-

30 On St. Mat. 11.

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Entertain thy less serious Hours. Retire, and call thy wandring Fancies home; and speedily range them into Peace and Order; that thou may'st so be prepared to hear thy Lord invite thee, among the rest to tast his Sweetness. Come to me you that Labour, and are Opprest; and I will Refresh you.

Take my Yoke and Learn of me, for I am Meek and Humble of Heart; and you Shall find Rest to your Souls.

For my Yoke is Sweet, and my Burthen Light.

II

Enough, dear Lord, enough is faid, to draw all the World to thy Holy S

e

Holy Discipline: What an be offered so agreeable to our Nature; too much, alas, inclin'd to Pleafure and Profit; what can be offer'd fo Powerfully Attractive; as to make our Work delightful, and then reward it? as to propose an Employment like the Mulick of Churches; Devont, and Sweet, and gainful to the Performers. Whither, Omy God, should we go, but to thee? thou haft the Words of Eternal Life.

III:

Thou are our wisest instructer to know what to do; and only Enabler

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to do what we know: Thou art the free Bestower of all we have; and faithful Promifer of all we hope: Thoukindly call'it us, O make us gladly hear thy Voice, and constantly follow it, till we come to thee. Suf. fer us no longer to go Astray like lost Sheep; wandring up and down in our own by-Wayes. Suffer us no longer to be distracted among many from thee, O things, Lord, who art but one. But gather us up from World into our felves; then take us from our felves into thee; there to be ravisht with thy thy Holy Embraces, there to be Feasted with the Antepasts of Heaven.

IV.

O, how unspeakable are thy Sweetnesses, O Lord; which thou halt hid for those who fear thee! which thou haft partly Revealed to those who Love thee, and keep their Tasts Uncorrupted with the World. But O, what are they then to those who see thee; and inthat Sight fee all things elle! To those who Rejoyce perpetually before thee; and in that loy, find all Joys else!

V.

O beauteous Truth, which

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which known it forces Love; and Lov'd begets Felicity! Live thou for ever in my faithful Memory; and be my conftant Guide in all my way. Still let me think on those Joys above, and undervalue all things compared to my Salvation. Still let me think on my Saviour's Love, that purchased for me all those Joys.

V 1.

O my ador'd redeemer, be thou the Master-Wish of my heart; the Scope and end of all my time. Soon as I wake, let me look up to thee; and, when I arise, humbly adore thee on my be nded

bended knees, often in the day let me call in my thoughts to thee; and when I go to rest close up mine eyes in thee. So shall my time be govern'd by thy grace; and my eternity Crowned with thy glory.

VII.

Lord, e're I take my leave, let me repeat some sew words more of those incomparable many thou hast lest among us. Let me attentively meditate their Substanciai Sense; and settle them as principles of my life and action.

Lay not up for your selves treasures on carth; where rust 36 On St. Matt. II.

rust and moth Corrupt, and thieves break thorow and Acal.

But lay up for your selves treasures in heaven, where neither rust nor moth Corrupts, nor thieves break thorow and steal.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

VIII.

Go now, you curious, and fludy what you please; for me, i'le stay, and liften to my Saviour, he'l teach me high, and fure and useful truths; he'l teach me truths that will make me happy. Hark but this one word more, and you'l ftay too;

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if any sense of your eternal good can hold you, hark how he kindly tells us this new and glorious Secret; we shall be hereafter like the Angells in Heaven.

IX.

O fweet and precious words to them that relish it, and throughly digest its strong nourishment, to them that feed on't as often as their daily bread; we shall be hereafter like the Angells in heaven, and what, O dearest Lord, are those blessed Angels, but Spirits that know, and love and delight for ever? Such, O my Soul, we shall be, and that iweet

38 On St. Matt. 11.

fweet life we shall lead we shall be and live like the Angels in Heaven.

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We shall know all that's true and love all that's good; and delight in that knowledge and love for ever. No ignorance shall darken us, nor error deceive us, no cares shall perplex us, nor Crosses afflict us; we shall be like the Angels in Heaven, our joyes shall be full, and pure, and everlafting; we shall be like the Angels in Heaven. Cheer thee my Soul and bless thy bounteous Lord; 'tis by him we shall be like the Angels Angels in Heaven. Cheer thee, and raise thy hopes yet glorionsly Higher; we shall be like himsels; for we shall see him as he is.

THE PRAYER.

Lord whither should Igo but to thee, thou hast the Words of Eternal Life? My Conscience accuses me of breaking all thy Commandments. I have Sinned in thoughts and Words, in thoughts more then I can think, and in Words more then I am able to express; for the number of them, that I have scarce room for any more; I am impure, but thou of purer Eyes

40 On St. Matt. 11.

Eyes then to behold iniquity, therefore if thou should'st enter into Judgment with me I am not able to answer thee, one word of a thou-sand.

H.

I confess there is but one way, to fly from thee as an angry God, but to fly to thee as a reconciled father, reconciled in the blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, to fly from the strict Bar of Judgment, to thy tender bowels of Compassion, not according to my merits, but according to my merits, but according to my necessities, and I humbly beseech thee, pardon all my Sins past and strengthen me against all Sin for the time to come, and

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to this end awaken my dead Conscience, Consirm my Judgment, enlighten my Understanding, Conform my Wills, reform my Life, enstame my Zeal, and onsirm my Faith, that from Centeforth I may live unto hhee, and serve thee, and thd rest unto my Soul, for shy Yoke is easily and thy Burden light.

MEDI-

MEDITATION. IV.

On St. Luke. 19. 41.

And when he was come near he beheld the City and wept over it.

If up thy Voice Jerusalem, and be not assaid; say to the Cities of Juda, behold your God: behold the Lord your God is come with a strong hand; his reward is with him, and his work before him: he is come to bring redemption to all the world, and graciously

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over Jerusalem. 4

doully offers it first to you his People. But you refas'd the holy one, and the just; and desired a murtherer to be granted to you.

II.

Hark with how fweet and elegant a Compassion thy kind Redeemer complains of thy ingratitude: 0 ferufalem, ferufalem, thou that kill ft the Prophets, md stonest them who are sent to thee. How often would I have gathered thy children together as ahen gathers her Chickens under ber wings and thou would'ft not. Hark, with how tender and charitable a reproof, thy Lord unwillingly withdraws

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draws from thee his favour. O hadst thou known even thou at lest in this thy day the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine Eyes.

III.

Harken once more, and if his kindness cannot move thy love, he'l try how his anger can work upon thy fear. Hearken then and tremble at those terrible threatnings with which thy provident Lord forewarns thee of thy danger. Gird thee with Sackcloth Jerusalem; and lye down in ashes; Cover thee with mourning, and bitterly lament: for the day shall come

Over Jerusalem. 45 come when thy Enemies shall Besiege thee, and Compass

Besiege thee, and Compass thee about with a Trench.

IV.

They shall not leave one stone upon another, but beat thee to the Ground. and thy Children in thee. Thy People shall be slain by the Edge of the Sword; and led as slaves into all Countries. They shall wander up and down without King or Prince; they shall Mourn without Sacrifice or Altar. And Jerusalem shall be trodden under Feet by the Gentiles, till the fulness of Nations be Accomplishe.

But O, how long, Lord Holy and Merciful, how long!

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long! wilt thou be Angry with them for ever ? Halt thou not faid, he that scatters Ifrael, will gather them again; and keep them as a Shepherd does his Flock. Remember thy ancient Promises, O Lord! and fave the Remnant of thy once lov'd Ifrael, take away the Veil from before their Eyes, that they may fee thy Truth, and Imbrace it: take away the Hardness from their stony Hearts; that they again may be thy People, and thou again their God.

VI.

Then shall they lay afide the Garment of Mourn-

Mourning, and put on the Brightness which comes from thee. They hall celebrate the Jubily of this their greatest Deliverance, and every one fing in that Day of loy. Come let's ascend to the Mountain of our Lord; let us learn his Ways, and walk in his Paths. As't was our Wickedness to go astray from our God; fo now Return'd, let us feek him ten times more.

VII.

Too late have we known thee, O thou ancient Truth: too late have we loved thee, O thou defired of all Nations!

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48 ons! we were misled by the Error of our Fathers; we were abus'd by our own blind Passions. The Kingdom we expected deserves not that name; a short, and vain and troublesome Prosperity. Thy Dominion, O Lord, is in Holiness and Peace; In and of thy Kingdom there

shall be no end.

Such was the Kingdom' thou promisedsto David, thy Throne will I establish for ever. Such is the Kingdom thou giv'ft to thy Servants; they shall for live and reign with thee for ever. O make us love, dear Lord, this eternal KingOver Jerusalem 49
Kingdom; and all things
else shall be added to it.
0 make us love this eternal Kingdom, though
nothing else be added to
it. Thou art O Lord
the true Light of the
World; they who follow
thee walk not in Darkness.

THE PRAYER.

O Lord we befeech thee; call home thine ancient people the Jews; bring in the fulness of the Gentiles, that they may be all one sheepfold under one Shepherd. O that thy saving light might shine forth upon those many thousand Souls, who sit in dark50 Christ weepeth

Darkness and in the shadow of Death, before they go hence and be no more seen.

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II.

Reveal thy Son and his faving Gospel to those Asiaticks, Affricans, and Americans, that never heard of a Crucified Jesus. O do good in thy good pleasure to this our Sion, make up the Breaches of this our Jerusalem; teach us O Lord at least in this our day, to know the things that belong to our Peace, before they come to be hid from our Eyes.

III.

Yet how long, Lord, how long wilt then be angry? for

Over Jerusalem. 51 for ever? [hall thy Jealousie burn like fire? Oremember not against us the Sins and Offences of our lives past, let thy tender Mercies speedily prevent us, for we are brought to great misery. Help us, O Help us, O God of our Salvation, for the Glory of thy Name; O deliver us and be merciful unto our Sins for thy names sake; Hear us and have mercy upon us, and do more abundantly for us, then we are able to ask or think for thy Son, and our Redeemers Sake Christ Jesus. Amen.

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MEDITATION. V.

In Sickness.

Job. 19. 25. 26. 27. I Know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the Earth.

And the after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my slesh shall I see

God.

Whom I shall see for my self, and mine Eyes shall behold, and not another, though myreins beconsumed within me.

Come, Let us praise the Goodness of our God who orders every thing

thing to the best for his Servants: whose Providence governs us all our Life, and at last sends the Messenger of Death. He casts us down on our Beds of Sickness; and draws the Curtain 'twixt the World and us. Shutting out all its vain defigns; and contracting all business to our Bed. of Sickness: There in that quiet Solitude he speaks to our hearts; and fets before us all our Life; there he discovers the Fallacies of this World; and invites us now at last to prepare for the other.

7. 1. 11

11.

Thither he fends his Messengers of Peace, to treat with our Souls, and reconcilethem to Heaven. Thitherhe sends even his only Son, to fecure our Paffage, and conduct us to himself. O, How quite other will our thoughts be then to what they were in our careless health? How shall we freely censure what we once esteem'd; and he eafily Convinc't into wifer Counfells, when our bodies shall be dried up with a Burning Feaver, and wasted away with a deep Confumption; when our unrully Senses snall be checkt che our fol

be ev cl checkt with Pain, and our rash Minds made sober with Fear; when the occasions of sin shall be removed away, and every thing about us inclines us to repent?

III.

Bleffed for ever be thy name, O Lord, whose Mercy Sanctifies even thy Punishments into favours. Thou tring'ft us low, to perswade us to be humble; and prescrib'st us a Sickness to cure Thou our Infirmities. command'st the Grave to dispense with none; but indifferently seize on all alike: that all may alike provide for that fatall hour

hour, and none be undone by mistaken hopes; thou tell'st us plainly, we all must die, but kindly conceal'st the time and place; that every where we may stand on our guard, and every moment expect thy Com-

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IV.

ing.

Come let us humble our felves in the fight of God; and spread before him all our Complaints; he is the great Creator of the World, and Soveraign Judge of all Mankind: He sits above on his Glorious Throne; and in his hands are the Keys of Life and Death. What-

Whatever he pleases he brings to pass, and none can resist his Almighty Power: whatever he does is still the best, and none can accuse his all-knowing Goodness. All things do live to thee, O Lord, thou sole Preserver of universal Nature. Thou comforts us when we lie on our Sick Beds, and makest all our Beds in our Sickness.

V.

Come let us make our peace be-times with our God, before the evening approach too near; while it is call'd to day, let us faithfully labour; for

for the Night will come wherein none can Work. Let us implore his favour first for our selves, and not till then presume to beg for others. Let us look first into our own Breafts, and strictly examine what passes there. Tell me my Soul how stand our great Accounts? Are all things even between Heaven and us? Are we prepared to go to meet our Judge whose justice punishes every least Defect?

VI.

Is there not still some restitution to make, which the love of this World tempts us to delay? Is there

there not still some misaffection to rectifie which our own false hearts abuse us to connive at? forgive, O Soveraign Goodthese our Imperness, fections; and fix our whole hearts on nothing but thy felf. Why are we thus at best but good by halfs; for whom there is a Heaven prepared worth all our Labours? Why do we mingle still with thy pure Grace fo much of our own corrupted Nature. Deliver us O Lord from the Temptations of this World; and mercifully fave us from the wrath to come. Bleffed are those Servants whom our

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our Lord shall find watching; he furely will beflow on them all the Mercies of Heaven.

VII.

our Prayers O Lord, and let our cry come unto thee; every thing afflicts us in this troublesome World; but nothing fo much as our own Iniquities. They like a heavy Yoke oppress our Necks, and keep down our Eyes from looking up to Heaven. Lord! We confess we have followed vanity; and negligently perform'd the work thou gav'st us: we confess we have gone aftray after the manner of men, and our chief desires

defires are still towards thee; in thee we believe, and love thy Name, thou great Physician of immortal Souls. VIII.

Quench not, O God of Mercy! the smoaking flax, nor break the bruised reed. Pardon the Sins which daily we have committed, and work a true and a hearty Repentance in us. O were we now again in health how gladly would we make use of every opportunity, how would we fpend every Minute in Repentance to purge away throughly every least Impurity? Teach us O Lord, patiently to endure any Cross or Sickness which wholfomewholfomely imbitters the World to our tast, that after this Experience if it be thy good Pleasure to restore us to our former health, we may amend our lives and be made sit for thy Heavenly Kingdom.

IX.

O make us bless thy name for all thy Mercies, and let not one be lost by our Ingratitude. Let us not see in vain the Crown at the Races end, and sit down lazily in the shades of ease: but let us stretch our selves, and pursue to the Mark, for the glorious Prize that's set before us; and when our Lifes last Day

Day begins to fall, and bids us halten to prepare for Night.

X.

Then come you Holy Angels, and watch about us, and fuffer not the Enemy to disturb our passage; come and receive in peace our departing Souls, and bear them fafely to the Presence of our Lord. Then O thou dear Redeemer of the World, and foveraign King of Life and Death! Thou, who despisest not the tears of the Penitent, nor turnest away from the Sighs of the afflicted: thou who preservest all that rely on thee, and fulfile'st their desires desires that ilong to be with thee.

XI.

Hear thou our Cries, and pardon our Sins; and graciously deliver us from all our Fears. Call us to thy felf with thine own blest Voice; call us, O dearest Jesu, in thine own fweet Words. Come you Bleffed of my Father, poses the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the World. Then, O my happy Soul immediately obey, and go forth with gladness to meet thy Lord; to live with him and behold his Glory; to rejoyce with him and fing his praise. XII.

XII.

O Bounteous Lord the only Author of all we have; the only Object of all we hope! as thou hast thus prepar'd a Heaven for us, O may thy Grace prepare us for it. O make uslive the Life of the Righteous; and let our last End be like theirs, that we may dye the Death of the Righteous, and live for ever in their blest Society. If thou O God be with us who can be against us? if thou justifie us who can condemn us?

The

The PRAYER.

VVO to me, Wretch-ed Sinner, what (hall I do? I have committed Evil in the fight of my God; I have offended the Eyes of his Majesty: whither shall I fly from the justice of my Judge? whither, but to the mercy of my Saviour? Have mercy on me O Lord for I am weak, O Lord heal me for my bones are vexed, my corrupt Nature has brought forth Sin, and Sin has brought forth Sorrow: where shall I seek for pardon, where Shall I find relief but in thee, my God, my hope, and

and portion in the Land of the Living?

II.

My dayes are declin'd as a shadow, and I am Withered away as grass; and nothing remains but the Cold Grave. O Let me call back that uncomfortable Word! My dayes indeed a are declined, but my Eternity is safe. am withered away as Grass, but the spring will come and revive me into a flower of Paradice: this my hope is laid up in my Bosom, let then my Body be Crumbled into Dust. Know my Redeemer lives, and in the last day I shall rife out of the Earth, and

be compast again with my skin, and in my slesh shall see God, and in that blisful Sight be for ever happy.

MEDI-

MEDITATION. VI-

A preparation for Death.

Revel. 14. 13. I heard A V.oice from Heaven, Saying unto me, Write; from henceforth bleffed are the Dead which dye in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit for they rest from their Labours.

This Life indeed is the way we must walk; but this alone cannot bring us to our End. Ere we arrive at our appointed home; we must be led through the Gates of Death, where we shall absolutely

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absolutely be stript of all we have; and carry nothing with us but what we are; where we not only must quit the whole World, but leave behind us even part of our felves. Hast thou, my Soul seen fome neighbour Dye? and dost thou Remember those Circumstances of Sorrow? We are fure, the case ere long will be our own; and are not fure but it may be very foon.

II.

Have we our felves been dangeroufly fick? and do we Remember the Thoughts we had then? how we refolved to correct our Passions; and **ftrive** thrive against the Vices that particularly indanger us. 'Twill come to this again, and no reprieve be found to stay one single minute the hand of Death, but he immediately will seize upon us, and bear us away to the Region of Spirits, there to be rang'd in our proper places as the course of our Life hath qualified us here.

III.

What though our bodies be Crumbled into dust; and that dust blown about o're the face of the Earth? Yet we undoubtedly know our Redeemer lives, and shall appear in brightness at the last great day; he shall appear in the midst of innumerable Angels; and with these very Eyes we shall see him: we shall see him in whom we have so long believed; we shall sind him whom we have so often sought; we shall posses him whom our Souls have loved; and be united to him for ever, who is the only End of our being. IV.

O thou Eternal Lord of Grace and Glory; our joy and portion in the Land of the Living, what hast thou there prepared for thy servants; who bestows't such pledges of thy bounty here: what dost thou there reserve

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in thine own Kingdom; who giv'st us thy felf in this place of banishment! How will thy open Vision transport our Souls; when our dark faith yields fuch delight? Nothing on Earth fo fweet as to kneel whole hours before thee; and one by one confider thy innumerable Mercies: what must it be in Heaven to shine continually before thee; and all in one contemplate thy unspeakable Glories? V.

O my ador'd Redeemer, when will that happy day appear, that mine eyes may behold thee without a veil? when will these Cloulds and Shadows pass

D 2 away,

away, that thy beams may Shine on me in their full brightness? Object not against me, Dearest Lord, that none can fee thy face and Live: those fears thy love has chang'd, and all my hope is now to live by feeing thee: fay not, O thou mild and gracious Majesty! if I approach thy Presence I must dye: rather instruct me fo to do dye, that I may live for ever in thy Glorious Presence.

VI.

Live Glorious King of Men and Angels; live happy Conquerour of Sin and Death, our praises shall alwayes attend thy Cross: ns

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Cross; and our patience endeavour to bear our own, through fiercest dans gers; our faith shall follow thee, and nothing wrest from us our hope to fee thee. We'l fear no more the fting of Death, nor be frighted at the darkness of the Grave. Since thou hast chang'd our Grave into a Bed of reft; and made Death its felf but a Passage into Life. We'll love no more the pleasures of vanity; nor fet our hearts on unfatisfying riches, fince thou haft open'dParadice again; and purchased for us the Kingdom of Heaven.

D₃ VII.

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VII.

Come happy Souls, to whom belongs fo fair a title to all these Mercies. Come, let us now raise up our thoughts; and continually meditate our future Beatitude. Let us comfort our Labours with the hope of rest, and our sufferings with the expectance of a quick reward. Now that the hand of our gracious Lord has unlock't the Gates of Everlasting Bliss, now that they stand wide open to admit, fuch as press on with their utmost ftrength, such as have wifely made choice of Heaven for the only end and business of their Life, rejecting all all these salse allurements, to attend the pursuit of the grue selicity.

VIII.

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O blessed Jesu, our hope and strength; and the full rewarder of all thy fervants! as thou hast freely prepared for us ready wayes; fo Lord let thy Grace enable us to work. Make us direct our whole life to thee; and undervalue all things compared with thy Love. Seal thou our Eyes to the illusions of this World, and open them upwards to thy folid Glories; that when our earthly Tabernacle shall be dissolved; and this house of Clay fall down D 4 into into the dust, we may ascend to thee, and dwell above; in that Building not made with Hands, Eternal in the Heavens,

The PRAYER.

Thon that art the Physician both of Body and Soulhave mercy upon all those that are visited with thy hand of Sickness, and tossed upon the Bed of pain. Lord give them ease, Lord give them help; lay no more upon them, than thou wilt enable them to bear; bless all means that shall be used for their recovery, and let not their Sickness be to death if

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it be thy bleffed will : how ever thou dealest with their bodies be gracious and propitions to their Souls; though the outward man decay; yet let the inward man be renewed day by day: and when their bodies shall go the way of all the Earth, grant that th eir Souls may go the way of thy Saints and of thy Servants.

And we befeech thee, gracious God, to sanctific all spectacles of frailiy and mortality to us that are in health and strength, help us to wait all the dayes of our appointed time until our change shall come, make us all wife Virgins that we may get Oyl in in our Lamps, not only the Lamps of Profession, but the Oyl of Sincerity; that we be alwayes ready to go in with the Bridegroom of our Souls whenfoever it shall please thee to come unto us, either by thygeneral or by thy particular visitation, purific and cleanse us while we have day in this Life from all droffy affections, that when the night of death comes, in which none can Work, me may be found fit immediately to enter into thy Eternal Rest through our Lord Jesus Christ thy Son and our Saviour. Amen.

MEDI-

MEDITATION. VII:

Comforts against the Loss of Friends.

Thef. 4. 13. 14. But I would not have you to be ignorant Brethren, concerning them which are assep, that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God

bring with him.

L Et us wipe our Eyes with the comfort of hope, and change our grief into into a charitable joy; the friends we mourn for are deliveredfrom this World, and all the miseries we so justly deplore; their bodies tremble no more with the Palsie, nor burn with the flames of a fcorching Feaver; they cry out no more for want of fleep, nor roul up and down their uneafy Beds.

II.

But quietly rest in the filent Grave, till they rife again to immortal Glory; which while they there expect in peace, their Souls are enlarged to a fpacious liberty; no longer confin'd to this prison of the body, but gone to dwell

dwell in the region of Spirits; no longer exposed to these stormy Seas, but gladly arrived at their fafe harbour.

III.

O praise our Lord all you Nations of the Earth, whom his Providence yet fustains alive: whom he fo long forbears to strike, though our Sins have often provoked his Wrath; whom he fo graciously calls to repent, though our Passions have hitherto neglected his vioce : making Experiments by the death of others, to advise his fervants to a warier Life.

84 Loss of Friends.

IV.

To clear this useful Truth, We too must die, and strictly account for every Idle Word; we must appear before that great Tribunal, and tremblingly receive our everlasting Doom. Seems it so hard a Fate to tread the Path which all our Ancestors have gone before u? Adam the first of Men, and Abraham the friend of God; David the man after God's own heart, and Daniel the Prophet of the Lord.

All these have paid their debt to Nature; and fubscribed the Law of universal mortalityJesus himself, the eternal
Son of God, expired on
the Cross; land went to
his glory through the
Gates of Death, and shall
our fond self-love so
blindly slatter us, to
wish an Exception from
this general Rule? 'tis
not for us O Lord, to
chuse our own conditions, but to manage well
what thou appointest.

86 Anact of Resignation

The PRAYER.

An act of Refignation when a Friend is dead.

A Lmighty Godbe pleas-ed to take pitty on thy distressed servant grieving for the Los of his Friend. Thou knowest Lord how neerly our hearts were knitt in Affection, and therefore how justly I lament my Loss. But since it was thy pleasure, to receive him to thy felf, be pleased also to hasten my journey to him; give me patience to endure this stroke of thy scourge, and thankfully to acknowledge thy goodness in his happiness. Him thou

when a Friendis Dead. 87 thou hast taken from the evil to come; O deliver me also from this body of Death.

II.

Give me dear God a sight of my Sins, and turn all my tears into a godly forrow for offending thy divine Majesty. O be thou, a Father, Brother, Friend and all to me that all my wants may be supplyed by thy all-sufficiency, O let my treasure be laid up with thee in Heaven, that where my treasure is there my heart may be also; and when it shall be thy pleasure to free me from this Tabernacle of flesh, let me be received into that Quire of Saints, whereof I doubt not but my friend is a joyfull member.

ber. Grant this O Heavenly Father for thy Son Jesus Christ's Sake my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MEDI-

MEDITATION. VIII-

On the Day of Judgement.

Heb. 9. 27. It is appointed for all men once to dye, and after that the Judgment.

Praise our Lord all you his Works; bles him and magnise him for ever! praise his Almighty power that gave you your being; and still preserves you from Relapsing into nothing. Praise his all-seeing wisdom, that here directs

directs your Steps; and leads you on to your eternal End : praise above all his boundless goodness; that pours into every thing as much as it can hold. And though our short fight now reach not so far but often mistake, and repine at his Government; yet at the last great Day, we shall clearly difcern a perfect concord in the harshest note.

II.

This is not all, to expire and dye, and dwell for a time in the filent Grave; we must expect another day, a day of publick account and restitution

tution of all things, when our ador'd Redeemer shall come in the Clouds, and fummon all Nature to appear before him, there to receive each their proper part exactly fitted to their best capacity: there to behold the whole Creation strive to express in it felf the Perfections of its Maker, whose admirable wisdom shall guide that last universal Scene, and finish the whole Action in a beauteous Close.

III.

When the Arch-Angel shall sound his Trumpet, and proclaim aloud this universal Summons,

Arise

arise you Dead, and come to Judgment; arise and appear before the Throne of God. Then shall the little Heaps of Dust immediately awake, and every Soul put on her Proper Body. Immediately all the Children of Adam shall be gathered together, from heaven and hell, and every corner of the earth; there they must stand and all attend their doom, but O with how fad and fatal a difference!

IV.

The Just shall look up with a chearful Countenance, and in their new white Robes rejoyce and sing Alleluja; let us rejoyce. joyce, for the marriage of the Lamb is come; and his Bride has prepared her self; let us rejoyce, for the Kingdom of the World is made our Lords and his Christ's, and he shall reign for ever and ever: let us rejoyce, for now our Redeemer is nigh; behold he comes quickly, and his Reward is with him. Come, Come, Lord Jesu, thou long desire of our hearts; come quickly theu full delight of our Souls: Come and declare to all the World thy Glory, come and reward before all the World thy fervants.

V.

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Lo, where aloft he comes in Power and Majetty, attended with a Train of innumerable Angels; behold, where he fits inthron'd on the wings of Cherubims, and takes at once a view of all Mankind: foon he commands his Angels to fever his sheep, and gather them together on his right hand. First then to them he turns his glorious face; and shines upon them with these ravishing Words, Come you Blessed of my Father, possess the Kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the World.

VI.

O the joyes their Souls shall feel; when those Heavenly words found in their Ears? joyes that the wit of man cannot conceive; joyes that the tongues of Angels cannot express, let it suffice, themselves shall tast their own felicity; and feed on its sweetness for evermore. But O, with what dejected Eyes and trembling hearts shall the wicked frand expecting their Judge? What shall they do when where e're they look, their eye can meet with nothing butdefpair; above the offended Judge ready to condemn them ; F

them; below the bottomless pit gaping to devour them; within the worm of conscience gnawing their bowels; and round about all the World in flames.

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VII.

What shall they do, when that terrible voice shall strike them suddenly down to the bottom of Hell? Go you accurfed into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels. The Day of Man is past, when Sinners did what they pleased; and God feem'd to hold his Peace. 'Tis now the Day of God, when his wrath shall speak in thunder ;

der; and Sinners suffer what their wickedness deserves. Then shall they sink immediately into the pit of sorrow; and dwell in Darkness and Torments for ever. While the just shall go up in joy and triumph; and reign with our Lord in his Kingdom for ever.

VIII.

Thus shall the whole Creation be finally disposed; and Mercy and Justice divide the World. O my Soul! who now art here below; and read'st these Dreadful truths as things as ar off. Know thou shalt then be present, and see them E 2 with

with thine Eyes, and be thy felf concerned for all Eternity. Know as thou live, thou art like to dye; and as thou dy'ft thou art fure to be judged. Think what a fad condition it will be to find thy felf on the wrong hand think what thou then wouldst give to have repented in time; think what thou wouldst give for a little time torepent. XI.

Then ask the bright Angels what made them happy, and straight they'l answer with a spriteful voice, we readily obey'd our great Creator; and he fixt us here to shine for ever. Ask the blest Saints,

what

what brought them to felicity; and immediately they'l tell you in the fame glad tune, we faithful lov'd our Dear Redeemer; and that love plac't us here. Ask both together, what bred those excellent Vertues; and both together will proclaim aloud, bleffed for ever be the grace of our God, which alone has wrought all our Works in us: Bleffed for ever be the bounty of our Lord; which gave us freely first, then Crowned his own Gifts.

X.

Watch therefore now and continually pray; for we know not the hour E 3 when

when the Son of Man will come. O Son of God and who cam'ft in Man, Mercy to fave us; bring the fame Mercy with thee, when thou com'st to judge us. Mean while affift us with thy Heavenly Grace, to stand perpetually with our accounts prepared: that we may dye in the peace of God, and his Holy Church; and go to live with him and his Bleffed Saints. Command thy Vigilant Angels to watch about us; and carry us strongly on to the place of our defires. It is decreed for all men once to dye; and after Death Judgment.

The

The PRAYER.

VV Here Shall I hide me O Lord from the face of thy wrath? where shall I hide me when thou comest to Judgethe living and the Dead? I tremble at my own unworthiness; I am ashamed, thus impure, to appear in thy presence. Wash me yet more, O Lord; from my iniquities, and purge me thorowly from my Sins. Purge me with Hysop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter then Snow, make me to hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which thou haft broken may rejoyce. I know E 4 the

102 On the Day

the Enemy that obstructs my way: my Sins exclude me from thy Kingdom; where no unclean thing can enter, nor any clean be deny'd admittance.

H

O Happy they, whom our Lord shall honour on the Day of his triumph! and rising from his seat of Judgment, go gloriously before them, and with these sweet and gracious Words invite them to follow him; come you Blessed of my Father, possess the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the World. The reward of your Labours I will give you; I my self will be your reward: come enter

in to your Masters joy.

Deliver us, O Lord from that sad deplorable End. Which thy justice has prepared for the Wicked; Deliver us from those vain Deceitful ways, that lead us to so miserable an End, O make us alwayes fear thy Judgments, that we never feel them, alwayes hope in thy Mercies, that we never forfeit them. Blefs us, O Lord, with a happy Death; that our Souls may depart in peace, and go up and dwell among thy Saints and Angels.

IV.

Blefs us, O Lord, with a Holy Life, and then our Death

104 On the Day &c.

Death cannot but be happy, this we beg for thy Son Fefus Christs Sake who Dyed for our Sins, and for the Sins of the whole World, he rose again for our justification, and fits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge both the quick and the Dead. To whom be ascribed, as is most due all Honour, Power, and Glory, Aderation, and Subjection, from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.

FINIS.

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